

# BOOK REVIEWS

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**ABDOMINAL RADIOLOGY**—Editor: James J. McCort, MD; Authors: James J. McCort, MD; Robert E. Mindelzun, MD; Robert G. Filpi, MD, and Charles Rennell, MD. The Williams & Wilkins Company, 428 E. Preston St., Baltimore, MD (21202), 1981. 344 pages, \$49.50.

The stated purpose of this modest-sized book is to provide radiologists and attending physicians with a step-by-step evaluation of abdominal radiographs in regard to technique, normal anatomy and a host of abnormal radiographic findings. Each chapter focuses on specific topics such as technique, peritoneal and extraperitoneal anatomy, abdominal calcifications, normal and abnormal fluid and gas collection, and abdominal masses. The book is aimed at radiologists, surgeons, internists, family practitioners and emergency room physicians. The text mainly discusses plain abdominal radiographs with introduction of contrast studies, computerized tomography and ultrasound where appropriate to illustrate or confirm findings.

The aims of the authors are well met. The book contains a superb collection of well-reproduced radiographs illustrating an amazing number of entities. In addition, there are many fine drawings and illustrations that are quite useful to explain pertinent anatomy and pathologic conditions. The references provided with each chapter are extensive and appear to contain the key references in the field. This book would provide an excellent start for a literature search for many radiologic findings. The relatively low cost (for a finely illustrated radiology text) is commendable.

The only drawback to the text is the necessarily limited discussion of many topics. The book is ideal for a radiology resident or nonradiologist who needs to be well versed in the technique and interpretation of abdominal radiographs. It is not suited for an experienced radiologist who needs an in-depth reference work. It would be quite useful as a rapid, albeit somewhat limited, guide for looking up a specific point. The references could then be consulted for a more detailed topic discussion. The book also would be an excellent guide for teaching purposes.

In summary, this book can easily be highly recommended as a textbook for radiology residents, and as a reference book for attending physicians who must deal with acute abdominal conditions. Experienced radiologists would also find it useful as a handy quick guide with respect to abdominal anatomy and pathology.

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**BONE METASTASIS**—Volume Five in the series: **METASTASIS**—Edited by Leonard Weiss, ScD, MD, PhD, Department of Experimental Pathology, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York; and Harvey A. Gilbert, MD, Department of Radiation Therapy, Southern California Permanente Medical Group, Los Angeles. G. K. Hall Medical Publishers, 70 Lincoln Street, Boston (02111), 1981. 512 pages, \$55.00.

*Bone Metastasis*, edited by Weiss and Gilbert, is a wide-ranging work with a large group of contributors. Ordinarily this would mean a lot of redundancy, but not so in this case. Very few things are repeated, yet each chapter can stand alone as an informative article.

The entire spectrum of bone metastasis is covered,

including an historical piece, the 1956 Caldwell Lecture by Batson, which has certainly stood the test of time. Much of the book is really in the realm of basic science—anatomical pathways, physiologic and biochemical aspects and laboratory studies. Although these are welcome to researchers in this field, they will not be of much interest to most practicing physicians or residents.

The chapters dealing with the clinical approach to bone metastasis were especially well written and are very readable. Chapter 10, "The Radiologist and the Diagnosis of Bone Metastases" by Schreiber, and Chapter 11, "The Radionuclide Scan in Bone Metastasis" by Low, should be required reading for all radiologists.

The chapter on computed tomographic (CT) scans of bone and soft tissue metastases is very good but, because of the rapidly evolving field of CT, some of the more recent advances have not been mentioned. Also, no mention is made of nuclear magnetic resonance, which promises to be important in tumor and metastasis imaging. Magnification radiology, a very useful imaging modality in metastatic bone disease, is not mentioned either.

Perhaps more should have been said about the proper workup of a patient with bone metastasis—that is, the utility, or lack of utility, of skeletal surveys as opposed to radionuclide scans. When should workups be augmented with CT scans and tomograms? These things were, indeed, briefly mentioned, but not emphasized. This can be a very confusing and, for a patient or bill-payer, costly maze.

These minor criticisms should not hide the fact that this is an excellent work with each chapter containing a complete bibliography and with a full index at the end of the volume. It contains the latest in diagnostic workup, orthopedic advances and therapy. It should be well received by all in this field of medicine.

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**OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND: APPLICATIONS AND PRINCIPLES**—Edited by W. S. Van Bergen, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield, Illinois. Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, Inc., Health Sciences Division, 2727 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA (94025), 1980. 157 pages, \$19.95.

This book is clearly written and reduces complex concepts to simple terms. Its contributors include several pioneers and leaders in the field of obstetrical ultrasonography. It is particularly useful to students, residents and practitioners who require a general understanding of the field and knowledge of the usefulness and limitations of the modality. In this sense it has real value and fulfills a genuine need. The chapters on the history of ultrasound, basic principles of diagnostic ultrasound, and the state of knowledge pertaining to safety are interesting and informative.

Since the book is a general overview and not a detailed text, readers should not expect to learn to become proficient in the performance and interpretation of obstetrical ultrasound by studying it. Nor can it be used